

Vol. 35, No. 5

BULLETIN

June, 1941

*of*

THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY  
IN VIRGINIA

# The College of William and Mary and National Defense



WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

1941

Entered at the Post Office at Williamsburg, Virginia, July 3, 1926, under act  
of August 24, 1912, as second class matter. Issued January,  
February, March, April, June, August, November.

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## The College of William and Mary and National Defense

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The National Defense Program, designed to meet the present world crisis, has created many new and difficult problems of adjustment in every phase of American life. In the colleges and universities these problems are especially acute. For the college, to a considerable degree, is the reservoir of the intellectual and physical manpower of the nation. It, therefore, must continue its function of training for leadership in the future and at the same time do all within its power to meet the demands of the present. As stated by the President of the United States at the time of the enactment of the Selective Service Act, it is the "patriotic duty" of students "to continue the normal course of their education, unless and until they are called, so that they will be prepared for greater usefulness to their country." It also is good common sense. For while National Defense demands service in the armed forces, it also demands equally important service in science and industry.

During the session 1940-41 the College of William and Mary made a careful study of the demands and responsibilities laid upon it by the National Defense Program. Two basic conclusions emerged from this study:

I. The most effective training which a college can offer its students for various kinds of service to their country in an emergency is the basic training in the sciences and arts which fit them for positions of leadership.

II. The problem of the adjustment of higher education to the National Defense Program is essentially the adjustment and orientation of the individual student to the unusual new situations confronting him.

There also was established the College Committee on National Defense, designed to aid the student in meeting his individual problems as well as to cooperate with the National Headquarters

of the Selective Service System, the several armed services, other Federal defense agencies, the American Council on Education, and the Virginia State Defense Council. It is clear that more than ever there is a need for intelligent counselling of students. The work of the present counselling agencies such as the Faculty Advisers, the Director of the Placement Bureau, the Dean of Men, and the Assistant Dean of Men, will be coordinated by the College Committee on National Defense. During the present emergency the counselling of students may be placed under three heads: First, counselling in regard to long range national and individual interest; secondly, counselling as to non-military service in the interest of National Defense; and thirdly, counselling in regard to the armed services. The student should bear in mind that the armed services seeking commissioned personnel from the colleges prefer the man with a sound and complete general education.

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics as a result of a study has found that the supply of manpower in the specialized professional fields of Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, is at "a dangerously low level." Under these circumstances the cooperative arrangement between the College of William and Mary and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology takes on added significance.\*

Although the Bureau of Labor Statistics has not completed its studies, there apparently is general agreement throughout the country "that the present and future demands of the national defense program for college-trained scientific personnel will transcend the normal supply of graduating students that comes onto the labor market at the close of the academic year." The fields in which such shortage may occur are: Agricultural Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physics, Medicine, Biology and Bacteriology, and Geology in its several branches. The Deputy Director of the Selective Service System has stated that it is the national policy to maintain the supply of manpower in these fields adequate to the national demand. Although an entering student will not be confronted with the problem of the selection of his future field of activity since the course of the first

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\*See *Catalogue of the College of William and Mary in Virginia* (1940-41), p. 201, and *College and Career*, p. 53.

college year is quite standardized, he will encounter the problem of such selection later in his college career. Authorities also believe that there will be a demand for persons trained in Industrial Management, Public Administration, and Physical Education which will exceed the supply. The College of William and Mary, through its counselling agencies, is prepared to advise students intelligently regarding concentration in these fields. The United States Commissioner of Education has urged that students be advised not to substitute short courses for regular ones of full professional content.

While the interests of the nation and its defense demand that no wholesale revisions of the curricula of colleges and universities be made, it is obvious that adaptations have become necessary. Certain work offered at the College of William and Mary during the session 1940-41 is worthy of mention. Pilot training under the Civil Aeronautic Authority was instituted in the fall of 1940, the ground courses in Meteorology and Navigation being given by the Department of Physics, and flight training being conducted at the College Airport by instructors from Aviation Service Incorporated, of Newport News, Virginia. The Marshall-Wythe Seminar, an existing College course, directed its attention during the session 1940-41 to the several aspects of the Defense Program. Prominent authorities in the public service were guest lecturers. The Seminar will follow a similar program during the coming session. The regular series of radio addresses delivered by members of the College faculty also concerned the several aspects of the world crisis. A new course, the Economics of War, was instituted during the session 1940-41.

Within the framework of the regular College curriculum are many courses of significance to the National Defense Program. Some of these courses have been modified to meet the present need, while others more readily serve the national interest by being retained in their present form. They fall into four main groups:

1. Those of direct use as training for the armed services:

- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages

2. Those of direct use as training for defense industries:

- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Business Enterprise
- World Resources
- Economics of War
- International Trade and Finance
- Public Finance
- Accounting
- Transportation
- Public Administration
- Administrative Law
- International Law

3. Those serving particularly to acquaint the student with war as a social phenomenon:

- International Relations
- International Law
- Politics
- American Foreign Policy
- Modern History
- Comparative Economic Systems
- Psychology
- Political Philosophy
- Ethics

4. Those designed to contribute to the general public welfare in time of emergency:

- Physical Education
- Gymnastics
- Personal Hygiene
- Bacteriology and Public Health
- Histological Technique
- Human Physiology
- Entomology
- Diet in Disease
- Guidance and Personnel



New courses which will be offered during the session 1941-42 in aid of the National Defense Program are:

- Military and Naval Strategy
- Defense Administration
- Colonial Administration
- Public Opinion, Propaganda, and Public Relations
- Latin America
- Far Eastern Affairs
- \*Hydrobiology
- \*Economic Marine Invertebrates
- \*Fishery Biology
- Food Problems of the Family
- Nutrition and Public Health
- Military Chemistry

Further information will be furnished on request by John E. Hocutt, Assistant Dean of Men, Secretary of the Committee on National Defense of the College of William and Mary.

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\*These fields are highly important because of the potentialities of marine life as a source of food as well as for industrial uses.





